

MSCP

Public Workshop

2004 Annual Report

June 18, 2005

Prepared by:



- General welcome by Keith Greer, City of San Diego.
- The Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Plan was completed in 1997 and the City of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, City of Poway and the County of San Diego have approved subarea plans and obtained permits from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) under the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts.
- Each jurisdiction is in charge of implementing their subarea plans with oversight by the Wildlife Agencies (United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game)
- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a cooperating agency, managing its lands consistent with the MSCP.
- The San Diego Conservation Resources Network (CRN) is a network of non-profit and non-governmental organizations that are growing partnerships for conservation.

MSCP Annual Workshop

2004 Overview

- 1. Acquisition Highlights**
- 2. Management and Monitoring Highlights**
- 3. Status and Planning**
- 4. Question and Answer**

The speakers for each section are:

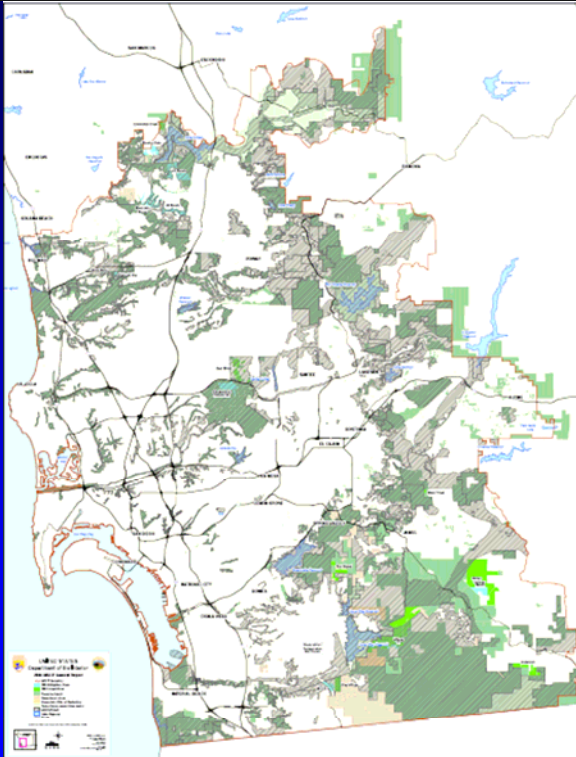
- Acquisition highlights: David Zoutendyk, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Management and Monitoring Highlights: David Mayer, California Department of Fish and Game
- Status and Planning: Trish Boaz, County of San Diego

Preservation Highlights

David Zoutendyk (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

- A total of 6,334 acres were acquired or preserved as mitigation in 2004. Of that total, 3,611 acres were inside the planned preserve area and 2,722 acres were outside the planned preserve area.
- As of 2004, 100,053 acres (58%) of the 172,000-acre goal have been preserved.
- The MSCP partner agencies are using a computer program called HabiTrak to track preservation.
- Funding sources for 2004 acquisitions – Section 6 funds from US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Conservation Board, California Coastal Conservancy, County of San Diego General Fund, City of San Diego General Fund, The Nature Conservancy and others.
- More information about locations of 2004 preservation can be found on the 8.5 x 11 map at the back of this packet.

2004 Acquisitions



US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE; SAN DIEGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (NWR): 570.5 acres were added to San Diego NWR in 2004. TPL/Village 15 added the largest area. This habitat was burned over during the October/November fires of 2003, however the Quino checkerspot was found here in March 2004. Other acquisitions include: Asisto, 40 acres. Baker Trust, 20 acres. TPL/Village 15, 324 acres. Chula Vista, 186 acres.

CA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME: 2004 acquisitions: 609 acres at Calmat; 1,829 acres at Honey Springs Ranch; and 754 acres at Otay Ranch Village 15; for a total of 3,192 acres.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT: Acquired properties are: Brailsford Property, 40 acres. Anderson Property, 351 acres (2 parcels). Klein Trust Property, 178 acres. These properties were acquired for open space and habitat for Threatened & Endangered species. All properties are located east of Otay Mountain. Total BLM acres acquired as of 2004: 4, 472 acres.

COUNTY OF SD: The County is well on its way to meeting its acquisition goal within MSCP. In addition, land has been acquired within the future North County and East County MSCP plan areas which will be counted as part of the preserve baseline acreage (see map at back of this packet). 2004 South County acquisitions are: Otay Valley Regional Park, 192 acres. Polo Property (Escondido Creek), 110 acres. Total acquisitions to date: 4,445 acres. Acquisition Goal: 9,452 acres.

CITY OF SD: Del Mar Mesa, acquired 80 acres and a 60-acre mitigation bank is currently being developed; East Elliot Open Space, acquired 376 acres 2004/2005 and 70 acres currently in escrow; Otay Mesa, recently received a \$1.72 million grant to acquire property; San Diego River, conducting appraisals to evaluate potential acquisitions. See map at back of packet for more information.

CITY OF POWAY: The City of Poway purchased 40 acres in the Twin Peaks Cornerstone and another 22 acres of riparian and coastal sage scrub habitat.

Management and Monitoring Highlights

David Mayer (California Department of Fish & Game)

- Lands in the MSCP are to be managed to maintain or enhance habitat value for covered species.
- Stewardship occurs in the form of trash removal, invasive species control, access control (fencing, trails, etc), and enforcement of regulations.
- Monitoring takes place in the form of making sure habitat gains and losses are appropriately balanced and by collecting field data on species to ensure that they are thriving.
- If monitoring shows warning signs for a species, stewardship and management activities are adjusted.



Habitat Management Plans

- San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Fire Management Plan (USFWS)
- Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (CDFG)
- Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve (CDFG)
- Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve (CDFG)
- Private Projects in Lake Hodges Segment (County of SD)
- San Vicente Highlands (County of SD)
- Barnett Ranch (County of SD)
- Central City Preserve Area Specific Mgmt Directives (City of CV)
- City of San Diego Vernal Pool Mgmt Plan (City of SD/USFWS)
- Carmel Mountain & Del Mar Mesa Management Plan (City of SD)
- City of Poway Fire Management Plan (City of Poway)

USFWS: Pre-planning for the San Diego NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) has begun. The CCP is to provide guidance for the management of the refuge over the next 15 years. Through public, NGO, and special interest group involvement, the completed CCP will guide implementation towards management goals and objectives for Threatened & Endangered species, refuge uses, and future habitat acquisitions. The San Diego NWR also completed its fire management plan.

CDFG: Commenced preparation of management plans for Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve and Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve.

COUNTY OF SD: Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) for private projects in the Lake Hodges Segment include 4S Ranch, Starwood, Golem, McCrink Ranch, Maranatha and Bernardo Lakes. The HMPs for San Vicente Highlands and Barnett Ranch are also being prepared and will include Fire Management Plans for each preserve.

CITY OF SD: The City of San Diego has worked with local stakeholders and the wildlife agencies to prepare a draft Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Management Plan. It is expected that the plan will be finalized this summer. The City is also in the process of preparing a vernal pool management plan through a federal grant, as well as several other management plans, including plans for Black Mountain and Tecolote Parks. The City of San Diego has completed its vernal pool inventory, which included mapping over 2600 vernal pool basins, botanical surveys and fairy shrimp genetic studies. The report was released in August 2004 and the extensive data collected in this effort are being used to develop a City-wide Vernal Pool Management Plan in conjunction with the funding agency, USFWS.

CITY OF CV: Guidelines for protection, maintenance, and management of Preserve. Measures identified for each Preserve Management Area (PMA) based on baseline biological surveys. To be completed by end of 2005. (See attachment at the end of this packet)

CITY OF POWAY: A consultant has been selected to prepare a Fire Management Plan for the City of Poway. They anticipate a draft plan will be available for review in Fall 2005.



Post-Fire Habitat Monitoring

- Assessed status of MSCP covered species post-fire (USFWS)
- Post-Fire Study (USGS)
- Established photo points for habitat and post-fire recovery monitoring (County of SD)



USFWS:

- Summary of post fire assessment results:
- annual plants vigorously growing in burned areas: Otay tarplant, willow monardella (not in Otay Fire area), felt-leaved monardella, SD button-celery, SD thorn-mint.
- perennial herbs growing vigorously in burned areas: Dunn's mariposa lily, SD goldenstar
- woody shrubs vigorously stump-sprouting in burned areas: Gander's pitcher-sage (except in weedy areas that burned hot), Del Mar manzanita, Mexican flannelbush, Parry's tetracoccus
- woody shrubs germinating from seed: Tecate cypress, Mexican flannelbush, Parry's tetracoccus
- animals that survived fire and persist in burned areas: SD horned lizard, Cooper's hawk, Rufous-crowned sparrow
- Thorne's hairstreak: extreme reduction in available habitat:
- perennial herbs with reduced numbers or lack of observations in burned areas after fire: variegated dudleya
- important population reduced: cactus wren
- California gnatcatcher still under analysis; did not persist in short-term in burned areas:
- orange-throated whiptail: Other lizards survived fire, and orange-throated whiptail may have as well, but they eat termites, which eat woody debris, which was burned.
- SD barrel cactus: many survived the fire, but apparently those individuals did not bloom in 2004, lost a year of seed production.

USGS:

- continuing study that will compare pre-fire data with 5 years post-fire data at Elliot Reserve, Otay Mountain, Rancho Jamul and Hollenbeck Canyon.
- study includes sampling for reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, bats, birds, ants, other invertebrates, and vegetation.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO: Photo-points were established throughout the burned areas from the Paradise, Cedar and Otay Fires of 2003. Eight of these locations are within the MSCP area. The first photos were taken in December 2003 and are being taken quarterly.



Post-Fire Responses/ Management

- Eradication of exotic plants. Weed abatement study and monitoring protocols. (CDFG)
- CCC crews funded by National Employment Grant (City of SD)
- Trails Manager hired to prepare Trails Master Plan and standards (City of SD)
- Post Cedar Fire bridge, fence & trail repairs at Mission Trails Regional Park (City of SD)
- Extreme siltation due to vegetation loss from the fire is being removed by volunteer crews (City of SD)
- 2003 Otay Fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Plan (BLM)



CDFG:

- Continued management of Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve and Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve and Crestridge Ecological Reserve, including eradication of exotic plants.
- Continued 3-year study of weed abatement and monitoring protocols (began in 2004).

CITY OF SD:

- During 2004, post-Cedar Fire repairs to trails, fencing, and a bridge in Mission Trails Regional Park were carried out by contractors and the California Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC crews were paid for by a U.S. Department of Labor National Employment Grant. Installation of erosion controls continued to prepare for the winter 04/05 rainy season.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

- The Otay Fire Burned Area Emergency Response Plan includes:
 - Ecological Stabilization – herbicidal spraying of 250 acres for non-native plant species.
 - Invasive species control – re-vegetation of 250 acres with native plant species.



Habitat Management and Monitoring

- Floristic survey on CDFG ecological reserves (CDFG)
- Iceplant Removal in Mission Bay Park *Lotus nuttallianus* Habitat (City of SD)
- Native seed bank and native grass and native forb seed-source farms in 2005 (CDFG)
- Arrundo removal along Rattlesnake Creek (City of Poway)



CDFG:

- Began a native seed bank, and plan to begin native grass and native forb seed-source farms at Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve in 2005.
- Continued full floristic survey on CDFG ecological reserves (UCR and SD Natural History Museum).

CITY OF SD:

- City of San Diego staff from MSCP and Park and Recreation worked with volunteers to remove over 3.5 tons of iceplant for Nuttall's Lotus habitat in Mission Bay.
- City of San Diego MSCP staff is working with Caltrans to acquire funding to eradicate the remaining iceplant onsite.
- 2 new Park Rangers have been hired to patrol 8,000 acres of urban canyons.

CITY OF POWAY:

- The City of Poway removed over 600 cubic yards of Arrundo from public and privately-owned land adjacent to Rattlesnake Creek.
- Over 1,500 wild artichoke plants were removed from four Cornerstone areas with additional importance placed on the eradication of Caster Bean and Palm trees near riparian corridors.



Habitat Management and Monitoring

- USFWS and CDFG grants to:
 - Revise regional MSCP rare plant monitoring plan
 - Review and update monitoring priorities and develop conceptual models (San Diego State University)
- Statewide database (BIOS) progressing



•MSCP monitoring plan is being revised and updated to ensure the plan is scientifically robust and implementable. Two local assistance grants have been awarded for this work. The first grant is to Dr. Kathryn McEachern, a USGS ecologist and monitoring specialist. She is the lead researcher on the project to revise the rare plant monitoring plan and will be supported by a team of three scientific advisors. This grant is managed by the City of San Diego.

•The second grant is to a team of 3 professors at San Diego State University (SDSU). They will update the monitoring priorities and develop conceptual models to ensure future monitoring efforts lead to appropriate management responses. They will recommend ways to improve the monitoring plan's design and implementation based on literature reviews and other analyses.

•Federal and State partnership to develop statewide database for all biological survey data so trends can be tracked across jurisdictions and the state. For more information, visit the BIOS website: www.bios.dfg.ca.gov



Species Monitoring

- Cooperative Effort: California Gnatcatcher (USFWS)
- Mapped Otay Tarplant on Trimark Property (USFWS)
- Bird counts, arroyo toad surveys (CDFG)
- MSCP Monitoring for California least tern and light-footed clapper rail (USFWS, CDFG)
- Continued work on Bats, Arroyo Toad and Western Pond Turtle (County of SD)
- Wildlife movement studies across:
 - Wildcat Canyon Road (County of SD)
 - Scripps Poway Parkway (City of Poway)
- Exotic and Sensitive species monitoring at OVRP (County of SD)
- Rare plant monitoring for 7 rare plant species at 18 locations (City of SD)



USFWS:

- Species monitoring for 2004 was accomplished through cooperative efforts from Ecological Services assisting independent contractors with California Gnatcatcher surveys to independent contractors. Otay tarplant was also mapped on the Trimark property.

CDFG:

- Conducted bird counts at Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve and Crestridge Ecological Reserve; arroyo toad surveys in Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve and San Pasqual Valley (USGS); coordinated with USFWS in monitoring for California Least Tern and light-footed clapper rail MSCP monitoring.

COUNTY OF SD:

- Exotic and sensitive species monitoring took place at Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP).

CITY OF SD:

- City of San Diego staff performed monitoring for seven rare plant species at 18 locations throughout the City of San Diego pursuant to the 1997 MSCP biological monitoring plan

CITY OF POWAY:

- A road kill incidence study has been prepared that evaluates the effectiveness of the wildlife tunnel and road kill data associated with the extension of Scripps Poway Parkway from Pomerado Road east to State Route 67.

Status and Planning



Trish Boaz (County of San Diego, MSCP Division)

- There are plans underway that will complement the MSCP and some planning still being done within the MSCP.



Status and Planning



- North County Plan (County of SD)
- East County Plan (County of SD)
- City of San Diego Wetland Deviations (City of SD)
- City of Chula Vista General Plan Update (City of CV)
- City of Santee MSCP Subarea Plan
- Joint Water Agencies Habitat Conservation Plan
- San Diego County Water Authority NCCP
- MHCP Approval: Carlsbad
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Amendment (County of SD, SDGE)

MULTIPLE HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM (MHCP):

- MHCP was approved in 2004 and Carlsbad was the first subarea to receive its permit and sign an implementing agreement.

COUNTY OF SD:

- The County is currently processing an amendment to add the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly to its list of covered species. Environmental analysis of the proposed Amendment will begin soon. CDFG and USFWS partnered to monitor Quino Checkerspot Butterfly.
- The draft North County MSCP Plan text will be completed in Summer 2005. A consultant has been selected to prepare the environmental analysis for the draft North County MSCP Plan.
- A consultant has been selected for the preparation of the East County MSCP Plan. Public Outreach meetings have been held with the public agencies and the interested parties.
- Completed the Ramona Vernal Pool Study.

CITY OF SD:

- Working Group prepared revisions for wetland deviations. City Council's LU&H subcommittee approved the wetland deviations document in spring 2004. Staff is currently working with USFWS to acquire a grant for environmental review to take the proposed deviations to City Council.


CITY OF CV:

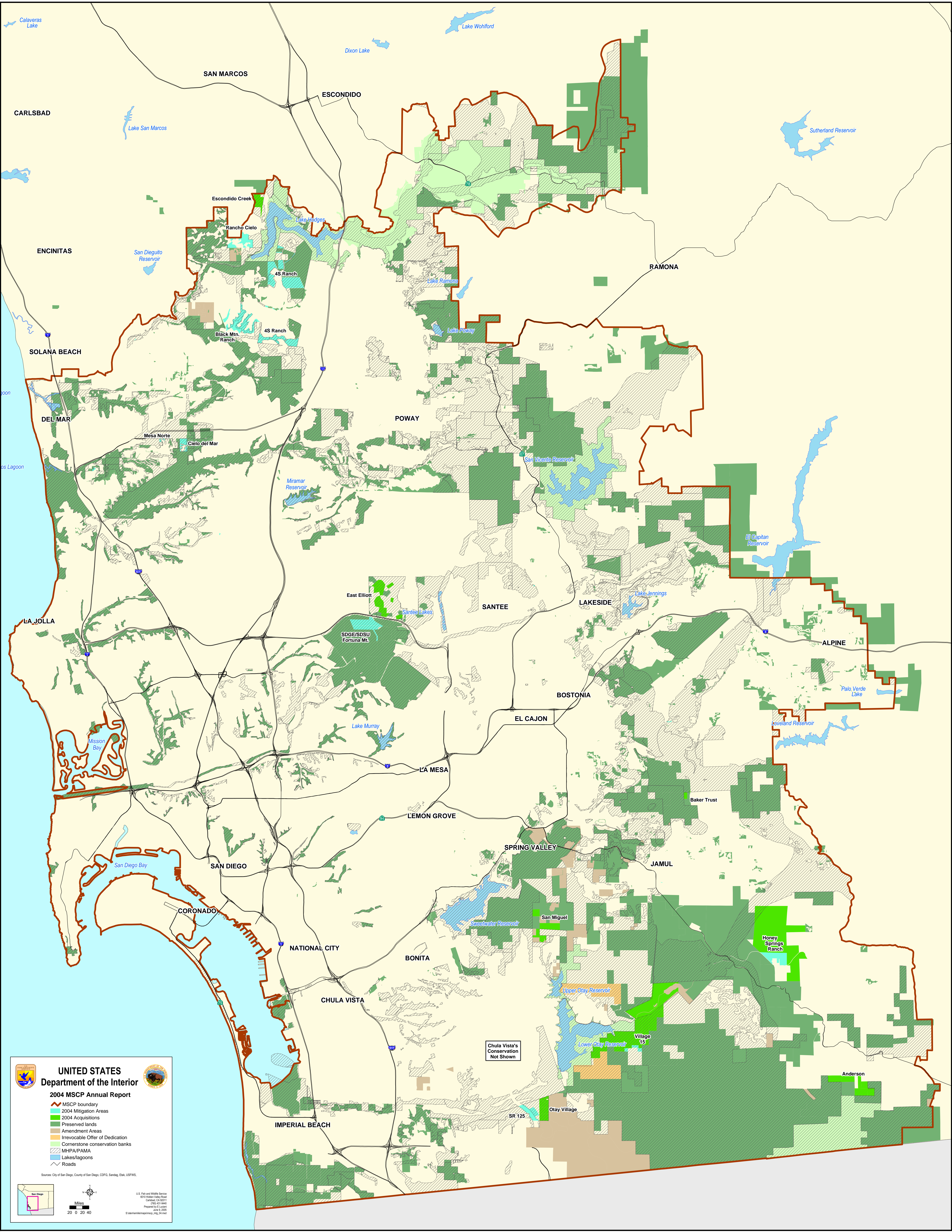
- Signed Implementing Agreement for MSCP Subarea Plan in January 2005.
- General Plan Land Use Diagram to be updated to show acquired lands for MSCP Preserve. Amendment to the Otay Ranch RMP to re-designate 45-acre Active Recreation site within Otay River Valley to MSCP Preserve. Otay River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Guidance document for land use development and habitat conservation within the watershed. Completion anticipated in 2006.



JOINT WATER AGENCIES

- Helix Water District, Padre Dam and Sweetwater Authority are working together and anticipate their joint Habitat Conservation Plan to be signed in late 2005.

Question and Answer



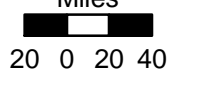






UNITED STATES
Department of the Interior
2004 MSCP Annual Report

- MSCP boundary
- 2004 Mitigation Areas
- 2004 Acquisitions
- Preserved lands
- Amendment Areas
- Irrevocable Offer of Dedication
- Cornerstone conservation banks
- MHPA/PAMA
- Lakes/Lagoons
- Roads

Sources: City of San Diego, County of San Diego, CDFG, Sandag, BLM, USFWS,



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
601 Indian Valley Road
Coronado, CA 92011
760 431-6640
Prepared by E. Lujan
June 8, 2005
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Preserve Management Areas (PMAs)

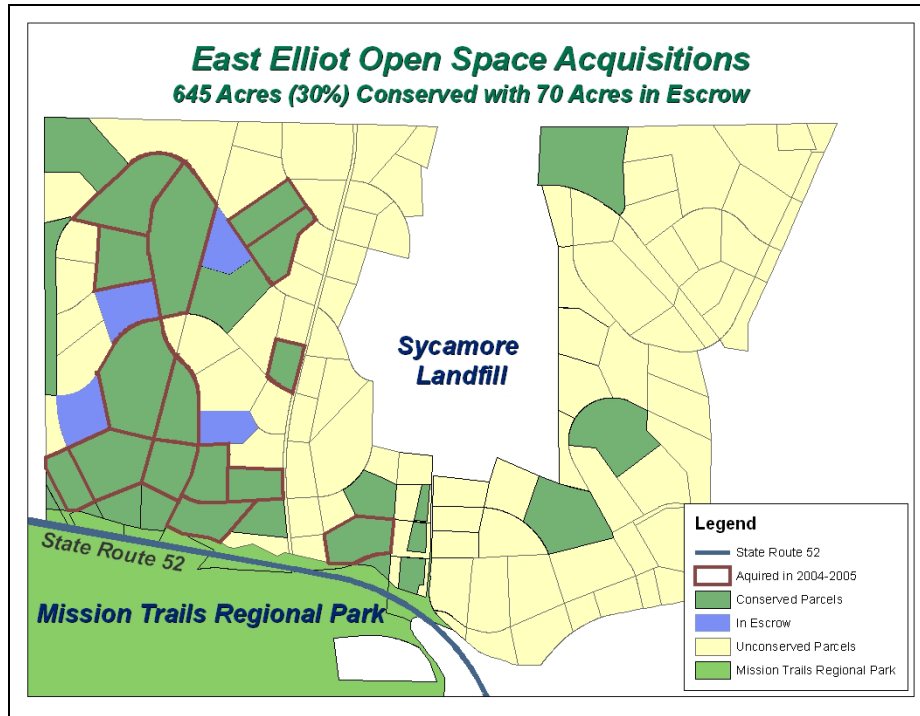


PMA subunits

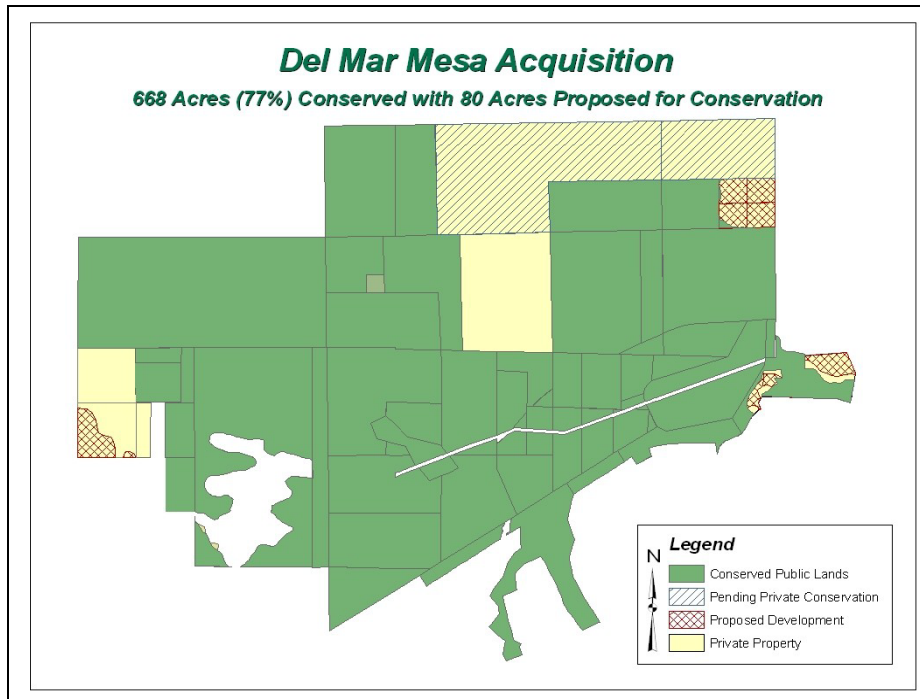


Major projects

FIGURE 3
Aerial Photograph of the
Central City Preserve



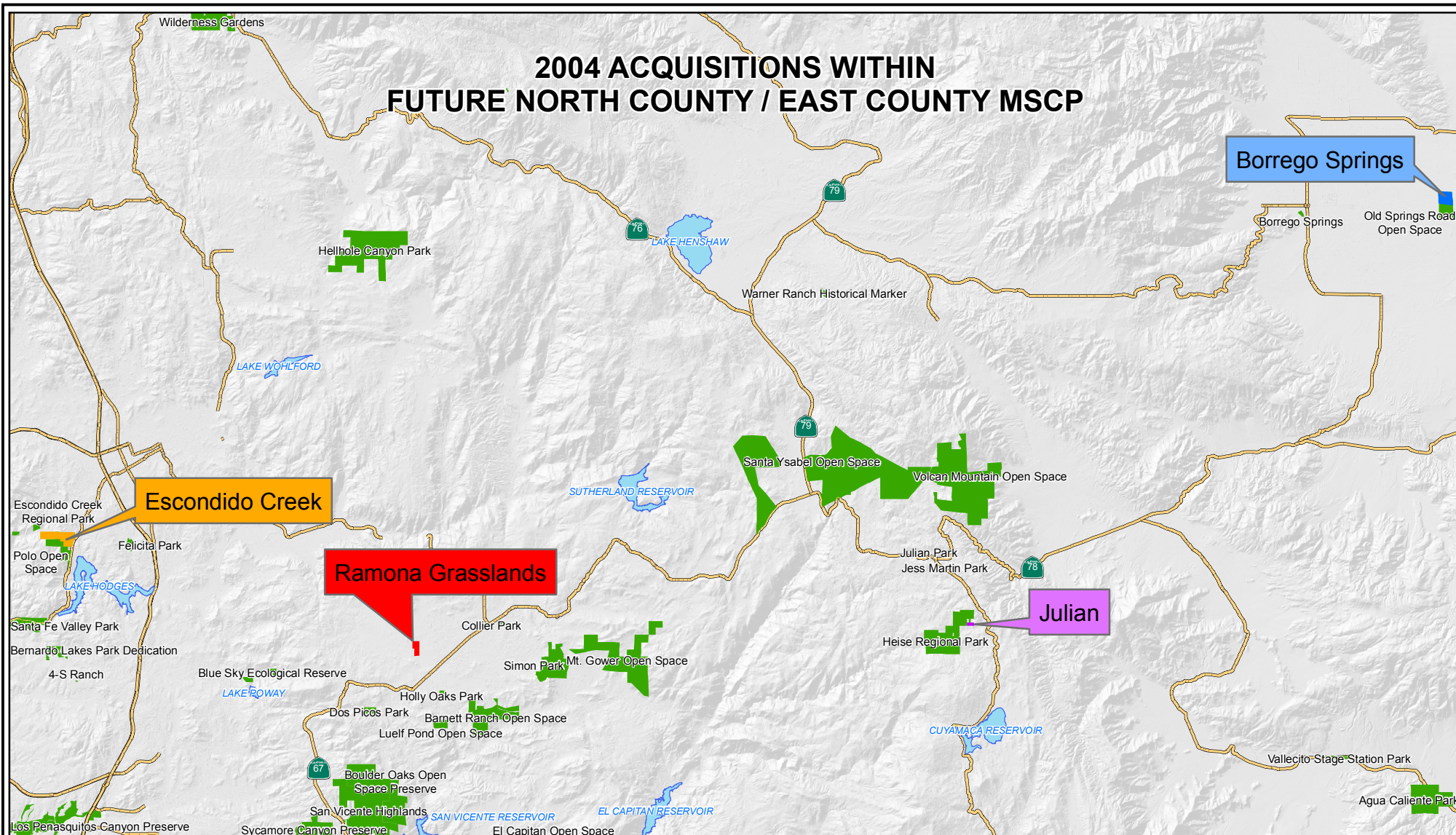
At the adoption of the MSCP, 1% of East Elliot was conserved; as of today 30% (645 acres) has been conserved. An additional 80 acres are in escrow.



At the adoption of the MSCP, 40% of Del Mar Mesa was conserved; as of today 77% has been preserved. A key conservation of 80 acres occurred in May 2004 and an additional 60 acre mitigation bank is currently being developed.



2004 ACQUISITIONS WITHIN FUTURE NORTH COUNTY / EAST COUNTY MSCP



Legend

Future North County MSCP

■ Ramona Grasslands - Hardy Ranch

■ Escondido Creek - Derbas

Future East County MSCP

■ Borrego - Peg Leg/Galdamez

■ Julian - Nielsen

■ County Parks/Preserve Land

■ Lakes

— Freeways and Highways

San Diego County Acquisitions For Future San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Programs

Future North County Multiple Species Conservation Program

Ramona Grasslands-Hardy Ranch - 70 acres in the Santa Maria Creek area containing vernal pools with San Diego fairy shrimp and grasslands that have potential for Stephen's kangaroo rat.

Escondido Creek-Derbas - 252.53 acres provides important wildlife corridors and connections between the future northern coastal cities' MHCP and the Lake Hodges Segment of the South County MSCP.

Future East County Multiple Species Conservation Program

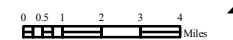
Julian-Nielsen - 20.52 acres - Adjacent to William Heise County Park, consisting of high quality habitat, including mixed coniferous forest vegetation.

Borrego Springs-Peg Leg - 163.36 acres adjacent to 161-acre Old Springs road property purchased in 2003. LeConte's thrasher, Flat-tailed horned lizard and Sonoran fringe-toed lizard occur in the sandy soils and scrub on the properties.

Map Notes

Date Created: May 31, 2005

Projection: State Plane, Zone VI, NAD 83, Feet
Ref: G:/GIS/projects/05_may_north_east_mscp.mxd



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